

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, and a crotch region which interconnects said front and rear waist regions, said absorbent article comprising:
 - a) a vapor permeable backsheet;
 - b) a liquid pervious topsheet which is positioned in facing relation with said backsheet;
 - c) an absorbent core located between said backsheet and said topsheet; and
 - d) a skin care composition on at least a portion of a wearer-contacting surface of said absorbent article which comprises from about 10 to about 95 weight percent of an emollient, from about 0.1 to about 25 weight percent of ~~an oil soluble,~~ ~~hydrophobic~~ a rheological agent, and an insoluble skin care ingredient, wherein particles of said skin care ingredient are suspended by said rheological agent; ~~wherein said skin care composition has an apparent viscosity of at least about 2,000 centipoise at 77 °C; and wherein said skin care composition has an elastic modulus of at least about 5,000,000 dynes/cm² at about 40 °C.~~
2. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said emollient is selected from the group consisting of petrolatum, mineral oil, sucrose ester fatty acids, polyethylene glycol and derivatives, fatty acid esters, alkyl ethoxylates, fatty acid ester ethoxylates, polysiloxanes, propylene glycol and derivatives, glycerin and derivatives, triethylene glycol and derivatives, fatty acids, fatty alcohol ethers, propoxylated fatty alcohols, fatty esters of polyhydroxy alcohols, lanolin and derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

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3. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said emollient is a petroleum-based emollient.
4. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said skin care composition further comprises a wax selected from the group consisting of carnauba, ozokerite, beeswax, candelilla, paraffin, ceresin, esparto, ouricuri, rezowax, isoparaffin, microcrystalline, other mined and mineral waxes, and mixtures thereof.
5. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the rheological agent is a poly- α -olefins.
6. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the rheological agent is polyethylene.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the rheological agent is an alkyl galactomannan.
9. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the rheological agent is a polyethylene and vinyl acetate copolymer.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the rheological agent is a zinc stearate.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said rheological agent is lipophilic.
14. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said skin care ingredient is selected from the group consisting of skin conditioning agents, skin

protectants, proton donating agents, protease inhibitors, enzyme inhibitors, antimicrobials, humectants, vitamins, skin soothing agents, herbals, botanicals, minerals, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said skin care ingredient is selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, talc, starch, allantoin, hexamidine and its salts and derivatives, chitosan, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), and 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonylfluoride hydrochloride, kaolin, and mixtures thereof and mixtures thereof.
16. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 14, wherein said skin care ingredient is an inorganic compound or material.
17. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said skin care composition further comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, and silicone based surfactants.
18. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said skin care composition further comprises a nonionic surfactant.
19. (Currently amended) An absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, and a crotch region which interconnects said front and rear waist regions, said absorbent article comprising:
 - a) a vapor permeable backsheet;
 - b) a liquid pervious topsheet which is positioned in facing relation with said backsheet;
 - c) an absorbent core located between said backsheet and said topsheet; and
 - d) a skin care composition on at least a portion of a wearer-contacting surface of said absorbent article which comprises from about 10 to about 95 weight percent of an emollient, from about 0.1 to about 25 weight percent of ~~an oil-soluble,~~ ~~hydrophobic~~ a rheological agent, a surfactant, and an insoluble skin care

ingredient, wherein said skin care ingredient is suspended by said rheological agent; ~~wherein said skin care composition has an apparent viscosity of at least about 2,000 centipoise at 77 °C; and wherein said skin care composition has an elastic modulus of at least about 5,000,000 dynes/cm² at about 40 °C.~~

20. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, and silicone based surfactants.
21. (Currently amended) An absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, and a crotch region which interconnects said front and rear waist regions, said absorbent article comprising:
- a) a vapor permeable backsheet;
 - b) a liquid pervious topsheet which is positioned in facing relation with said backsheet;
 - c) an absorbent core located between said backsheet and said topsheet; and
 - d) a skin care composition on at least a portion of a wearer-contacting surface of said absorbent article which comprises from about 10 to about 95 weight percent of an emollient, from about 0.1 to about 25 weight percent of ~~an oil soluble, hydrophobic~~ a rheological agent, a wetting agent, and an insoluble skin care ingredient, wherein said skin care ingredient is dispersed by said wetting agent; ~~wherein said skin care composition has an apparent viscosity of at least about 2,000 centipoise at 77 °C; and wherein said skin care composition has an elastic modulus of at least about 5,000,000 dynes/cm² at about 40 °C.~~
22. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 21, wherein said rheological agent suspends said skin care ingredient which has been dispersed.
23. (New) An absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, and a crotch region which interconnects said front and rear waist regions, said absorbent article comprising:

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- e) a vapor permeable backsheet;
- f) a liquid pervious topsheet which is positioned in facing relation with said backsheet;
- g) an absorbent core located between said backsheet and said topsheet; and
- h) a skin care composition on at least a portion of a wearer-contacting surface of said absorbent article which comprises from about 40 to about 75 weight percent of an emollient, from about 0.1 to about 5 weight percent fumed silica, from about 0.1 to about 25 weight percent of a particulate skin care ingredient having an average particle size of less than about 100 microns, and from about 10 to about 40 weight percent wax.

24. (New) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the rheological agent is selected from the group consisting of castor oil and derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

25. (New) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the rheological agent is a fumed silica.

26. (New) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the rheological agent is selected from the group consisting of poly- α -olefins, polyethylene, castor oil and derivatives, alkyl galactomannan, ethylene and vinyl acetate copolymers, fumed silicas, zinc stearate, and mixtures thereof.